

4/2/83
~~Top Secret~~

POLAND: Dispute Over Academic Freedom

Warsaw University's efforts to defend its autonomy may lead to a showdown with the regime. [REDACTED]

The faculty senate earlier this week rejected government attempts to control the appointment of key university administrators. The senate has refused to cooperate with the rector, who recently was appointed by the government, or to abide by any Ministry of Education directives that he tries to carry out. This rejection follows similar action by the faculty at the main university in Gdansk. [REDACTED]

Faculty members are trying to defend university autonomy until a new higher education bill recently passed by parliament and scheduled to be implemented in September gives universities more authority to run their own affairs. The government nonetheless has threatened several times to close all or part of Warsaw University if the senate refuses to be more cooperative. [REDACTED]

Comment: The regime probably hoped that the new education law would foster cooperation. The school's faculty, however, apparently doubts that the bill will be implemented and is trying to avoid compromises that it may later regret. The faculty's actions could, therefore, prompt the regime to make good on its threats to close the school or to fire recalcitrant faculty members. [REDACTED]

Faculty firings probably would cause student protests in Warsaw and perhaps elsewhere. Closing the university might galvanize much of the country's academic community into a confrontation with the regime over the principle of academic freedom. [REDACTED]

~~Top Secret~~

13 May 1982

Approved for Release
Date AUG 1989
1989